

SECOND GOLDEN GAVEL AWARD FOR SENATOR BURR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I offer congratulations to one of our Presiding Officers, Senator RICHARD BURR. At 5:20 p.m. today, Senator BURR broke the longstanding record for the quickest completion of 200 hours of presiding over the Senate. He has now earned his second Golden Gavel Award in this, his first Congress in the Senate. If he keeps this up, we may need to establish a special Platinum Gavel Award in his honor.

We all owe Senator BURR a special thank-you for his unprecedented service to the Senate as an institution.

I am sure he has heard many interesting and stimulating speeches in the Senate during those 200 hours.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 571, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 571) recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month and celebrating the vast contributions of Hispanic Americans to the strength and culture of the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the month-long celebration beginning today honoring the heritage of Hispanic Americans.

Every year, we set aside a month to pay special regard to the contributions of Hispanic Americans.

The tradition began nearly 40 years ago, when Congress authorized President Lyndon Johnson to proclaim National Hispanic Heritage Week. Two decades later, President Ronald Reagan expanded the celebration to 4 weeks—today's National Hispanic Heritage Month.

While the celebration has begun only recently, Hispanics have always defined America.

The history of Europeans in what is now the United States, in fact, begins with the voyage of a Spanish explorer named Ponce de Leon who landed on Florida's west coast in 1521.

Since then, Hispanic Americans have influenced every aspect of our history and culture. Let me discuss just a few:

David Glasgow Farragut, a proud Tennessean of Spanish descent, proved the North's most able naval commander during the Civil War. He became the first admiral of the U.S. Navy.

Severo Ochoa, a Nobel Prize recipient, revolutionized modern medical science when he discovered RNA, ribonucleic acid, one of the chemical building blocks of life.

Celia Cruz, a singer, introduced salsa music to the United States through her recordings and performances.

Louis and Walter Alvarez, both research scientists, originated the once-controversial theory that asteroid impacts can explain the periodic mass extinctions that have shaped the history of life on Earth.

Roberto Goizueta, Oscar Hijuelos, Benjamin Cardozo, Alberto Gonzalez, Rita Hayworth, Roberto Clemente—entrepreneurs, artists, public servants, athletes, scientists, scholars—these names stand out, but many others move America forward every day. We cannot name all of the countless heroes who have fought in wars, treated the sick, taught our children, and devoted themselves to public service.

Through continuing migration to our shores, Hispanic Americans continue to strengthen American culture. Foods, music, and artistic forms considered unalterably "foreign" just a few short years ago have now become firm parts of the American identity.

Today, as we begin a month-long celebration of Hispanic heritage, I join with all Americans in recognizing the invaluable role of Hispanic Americans in shaping and enriching these United States.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, today I wish to voice my support for the Senate resolution designating September 16, 2006, through October 16, 2006, as Hispanic Heritage Month. Hispanic Americans are our largest ethnic minority, and I am a cosponsor of this resolution because I believe it is an appropriate way to recognize the contributions made by our Hispanic American community.

Hispanics have migrated to the United States from all over the world. They have added to our national security by serving valiantly in the U.S. Armed Forces; many have paid the ultimate price and sacrificed their lives for freedom.

In my home State of Texas, Hispanic women and men shaped our Republic in its early years, and to this day, subsequent generation of Texans continue to enjoy the liberty for which our Texan and American ancestors fought so courageously.

Americans of Hispanic origin have contributed to the economy with their notable work ethic and have served honorably at all levels of government. Three of my Senate colleagues find their roots in Hispanic origins.

It is because of these contributions and their love of equality, justice, and independence that I am proud to support the distinguished majority leader, Senator FRIST, and my other Senate colleagues in designating September 16, 2006, through October 16, 2006, as Hispanic Heritage Month.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 571) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. RES. 571

Whereas from September 15, 2006, through October 15, 2006, the United States celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month;

Whereas the presence of Hispanics in North America predates the founding of the United States, and, as among the first to settle in the New World, Hispanics and their descendants have had a profound and lasting influence on the history, values, and culture of the United States;

Whereas, since the arrival of the earliest Spanish settlers more than 400 years ago, millions of Hispanic men and women have come to the United States from Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, and other Caribbean regions, Central America, South America, and Spain, in search of freedom, peace, and opportunity;

Whereas Hispanic Americans have contributed throughout the ages to the prosperity and culture of the United States;

Whereas the Bureau of the Census now lists Hispanic Americans as the largest ethnic minority within the United States;

Whereas Hispanic Americans serve in all branches of the Armed Forces and have fought valiantly in every war in the history of the United States;

Whereas the Medal of Honor is the highest United States military distinction, awarded since the Civil War for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty";

Whereas 41 men of Hispanic origin have earned this distinction, including 21 such men who sacrificed their lives;

Whereas many Hispanic Americans who served in the Armed Forces have continued their service to the United States;

Whereas many Hispanic Americans are dedicated public servants, holding posts at the highest levels of government, including 3 current seats in the United States Senate; and

Whereas Hispanic Americans have a deep commitment to faith, family, and community, an enduring work ethic, and a perseverance to succeed: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes September 15, 2006, through October 15, 2006, as Hispanic Heritage Month;

(2) celebrates the vast contributions of Hispanic Americans to the strength and culture of the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe Hispanic Heritage Month with appropriate programs and activities.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT—H.R. 5684

Mr. McCONNELL. I now ask unanimous consent at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 565, H.R. 5684; I further ask that there then be 3 hours of debate on the bill, 2 for the minority, with 60 minutes under the control of Senator DORGAN, 30 minutes under the control of Senator CONRAD, and 30 minutes under the control of Senator BAUCUS or his designee, and 1 hour under the control of the majority, with all time consumed on either Friday, September 15, or Monday, September 18.

I further ask that on Tuesday, September 19, there be 10 minutes for Senator DORGAN, 10 minutes for Senator